

Acton
Franklin Street near Spa Creek
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ACTON
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Date of erection: Late eighteenth century

Additional data:

Land grant of "Acton," 1651, 100 acres to
Charles Hammond. House formerly owned by
several generations Murray family.

Acton (Hammond's Plains) (Murray Hill)

HABS No. MD-296

1 Acton Place

Annapolis

Anne Arundel County

Maryland

HABS

MD.

2-ANNA,

20-

Addendum to

Acton

Franklin near Spa Creek

Annapolis

Anne Arundel County

Maryland

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
MD,
2-ANNA,
20-

Acton
MD-296
Data p. two

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MARYLAND	COUNTY ANNE ARUNDEL	TOWN OR VICINITY ANNAPOLIS
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Acton		HABS NO. MD-296
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Hammond's Plains Murray Hill		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 1 Acton Place		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) mid-18th c.	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Built in the mid-18th c. by Colonel Philip Hammond, military officer and local politician, and relative of Matthias Hammond. Philip Hammond married Sarah Brice, daughter of John Brice I. Hammond's main estate was Hammond Manor House.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Georgian		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick in Flemish Bond		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See field records for floor plans; central block with hyphen and wings.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Two projecting end pavilions topped by pediments with oval windows; two massive chimney stacks with decorative brickwork; brick string course above the ground floor windows; pedimented entrance porch with Doric columns; a brick hyphen and wing of later date.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) For a fairly complete description of the interior rooms see data pages 3-4.		
OTHER HISTORICAL INFORMATION: For an incomplete chain of title see data page five.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE As of the submitted report (1964) private residence.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The south wing appears to have been moved from its original location approximately 10 feet nearer to the house. The 1846 A.D. Boche map of the harbor of Annapolis when compared with the Provincial Court Deeds Liber TBH2 Folio 667 clearly shows the alteration. James Murray was U.S. Paymaster at the Naval Academy.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Davis, Deering. Annapolis Houses 1700-1775. NY: Bonanza Books, 1957, p. 110-111. Ingle, Harold N., Report for HABS, Sept. 1, 1964 Wright, Russell. Report for HABS, June 26, 1972.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS Historian		DATE 3/1/84

Interior Features:

First floor:

1. Hall : A pair of early raised panel doors, with original H-L hinges and cast iron box lock, crowned with a fanlight form the entrance to the house. There are no side lights, but the entrance is set into a recessed portion of the inner front facade. The base mold in this section is different from that used throughout the rest of the house. Door frames to two flanking side rooms are rather narrow but classic in detail. The doors have six raised panels of mid-eighteenth century design. The long, steep, strait-run stairs have square balusters, turned newell post and molded handrail, all of which appear to be original. The outer wall of the stair is panelled with molded frames, and there are no brackets under the treads.
2. Dining Room (front right): The dining room has four six panel doors, a simple wooden cove cornice, simple base mold with molded cap and no chair rail. The mantel is rather simple with a shelf, undecorated frieze and classical frame. The front window has fixed panels in the lower section from sill to floor, 12/12 sash, and two section double leaf shutters which rest in recessed pockets in the window reveal. The original side windows have been converted into a door which serves the 1930's addition on the right.
3. Right Rear Room: Used as a sewing room, this room has a good cast plaster cornice with picture mold of a later date, the same base mold as the dining room, and a new flooring. The rear window is a jib window, opening to a semi-octagonal porch of later date. The window has a 12/12 sash and two section double leaf panelled shutters. The side window has very heavy frames (6"-8" deep) which are designed to make the panelled section below the sill appear recessed as the front and rear wall windows are, when in actual fact it is flush with the wall.
4. Rear Central Room: This semi-octagonal room is the most important room in Acton. It has a heavily decorated plaster cornice with an egg-and-dart and bead-and-reel motif. The base mold is similar to that used in the rest of the house. There is no chair railing. The mantel is simple, with a molded shelf and undecorated frieze. All door and window frames are original and are characterized by six raised panels, H-L hinges and new locks. Hinge marks point to the prior existence of a door to the hall. Each section of the semi-octagonal bay has an exceptionally fine jib window, with 12/12 sash, two sectioned panelled leaf shutters with recessed pockets in the reveals, and a good number of the original H-L hinges. These jib windows open to the porch.
5. Left Front Room: This room has a simple cast plaster cornice, base mold and an eighteenth century mantel consisting of a molded shelf, a convex, undecorated frieze and molded frame without plinths. The side windows repeat the heavy deep frame arrangement with flush panel below the sill, while the two front windows have recessed fixed panels. The six panel door to the hall retains its original H-L hinges but has a new lock and knob.

Second Floor:

1. Hall: The center stair hall has been modified by the addition of corner cabinets at the front end. The hall is surrounded by a cast plaster cornice of classic design. The stairway details are the same as those on the lower floor. The front window has ^{the} 12/12 sash and the recessed panelled insert below the sill found throughout the house.

Interior Features (cont'd)

2. Front Bedrooms: The two front bedrooms are similar in detail, with six panel doors, H-L hinges, classic mantels with shelf, hour glass frieze and simple base molding. The window treatment is similar to that of the first floor windows. All of the rooms on this upper floor, with the exception of the hall, have molded chair railing.

3. Rear Bedrooms: The left room has no cornice but does have chair railing and base molding. Heavy, deep window frames are fixed in the side wall with flush panelling below the sill. The window unit in the rear wall has the more typical recessed panelling.

4. Center Rear Room: The semi-octagonal bedroom has a cast plaster cornice with rope garland trim, a wooden chair rail and base mold. The three 12/12 windows have fixed recessed panelling below the sills, with two section, double leaf shutters. The mantel is similar to that in the front right room, with molded shelf, hour-glass frieze and molded rectangular frame without plinths. Two six panel doors serve this room, one to the hall and the other to the two new bathrooms.

Basement: The framing under the front of the house has been altered. Circular sawn beams and floor joists notched into the original cross beam are supported by a masonry wall with relieving arches directly below the chimneys. The rear semi-octagonal section retains the rough cut timbering and original floor (covered over c.1930). The later framing is shimmed at the connecting points with the beam, and there are two of the original remaining pit-sawn joists.

The following citation of official records indicates an incomplete chain of ownership of the property:

1651 Grant to Richard Acton from Cecil Calvert.

June 6, 1753 Hall of Records, A.A.Co., Wills Book 81, folio 92: Col. Philip Hammond wills house to six sons.

1763 - 1768 Hall of Records, A.A.Co. Deeds, Liber BB3, folio 804 and 626: John Hammond secures his brother's portion.

1784 Hall of Records, A.A.Co. Wills, Liber TG2, Folio 151: John Hammond to William Hammond.

May 20, 1788 Maryland Land Office, Annapolis, Provincial Court Deeds Liber TBH2, folio 667: (William Holland leases to John Chalmers, Silversmith). 13 3/4 acres of "Plains of Annapolis" (Acton) adjoining city of Annapolis. With description of the parcel leased.

August 16, 1815 Hall of Records. A.A.Co. Deeds, Liber WSG3, folio 589: Hammond to Lewis Duvall.

July 26, 1836 Hall of Records. A.A.Co. Deeds, Liber WSG21, folio 232: Duvall to James D. Murray.

April 25, 1902 A.A.Co. Courthouse. Will Book RBI, folio 403: (after divisions of property) dwelling to Eva Murray, et al.

November 19, 1922 A.A.Co. Courthouse. Deeds, Liber WW57, folio 286: Murray to W. Meade Holladay et al. Mr. Holladay was president of the State Capital Bank of Annapolis.

October 17, 1935 A.A.Co. Courthouse. Deeds, Liber FAMI43, folio 534: Holladay's trustees to Ellen W. Smith.